



Greetings and Updates From Mayor Miner

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and were able to get out and about around the City. We had some fabulous events to attend over the summer in Long Lake, including Buckhorn Days, Night to Unite, and Corn Days. A lot of planning and effort goes into planning events like those, and I'd like to thank those who played a role, including the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring Buckhorn Days and the Corn Days Parade, as well as the Church of St. George for hosting Corn Days. I attended both events, and it's always great to see community members enjoying a nice summer day together. Our small-town atmosphere is among the many great things about living in Long Lake.

Night to Unite is another terrific annual event in which neighbors can reconnect or meet for the first time. Members of the Wayzata Police Department and Long Lake Fire Department join together to travel to different neighborhoods to hand out goodies and interact with kids and adults alike. That is always one of the highlights of the year for me, as I enjoy touching base with residents at the event each year. We visited approximately six events this year, and there is the capacity to add more next year. If you do not already have an event on your block or in your neighborhood, consider teaming up with your neighbors to have one next year.

The situation with the City of Orono and the Long Lake Fire Department continues, and on September 26, we had court-ordered mediation with Orono. Although we were hopeful we could reach a mutual resolution, that did not occur. The Mayor of Orono and at least two Council members seem intent on creating their own new fire department, which is almost unheard of these days, particularly for a city of their size. Regardless of their direction, your Long Lake City Council remains committed to ensuring the fire contract we have with Orono and Medina is followed by all parties and that we continue to provide high-quality emergency services to the communities served by the LLFD through our Fire Department. Your Council will now determine the next steps we will take in the case of the City of Long Lake vs. the City of Orono. I grew up in Orono and moved to Long Lake in 1988, and as a lifelong resident of the two cities, it pains me that we are in this situation. I can assure our residents that the Long Lake City Council is not responsible for creating the situation we are in, but we are doing our absolute best to take care of our greater fire service community and our firefighters.

Speaking of the LLFD, they will have their annual Fire Prevention Open House on Monday, October 9 at Station 1, so it would be great to see you there!

Charlie Miner, Mayor

City Contact Information

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BUILDING OFFICIAL

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CITY ASSESSOR

Southwest Assessing
763-479-3978

HENNEPIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Dispatch/Roads
612-596-0299

To Report Any Incident or
Emergency, Dial 911

Upcoming Events

LONG LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

Monday, October 9 / 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The annual 2023 Long Lake Fire Department's Fire Prevention Open House is almost here! On Monday, October 9, visit our Fire Station 1 (340 Willow Drive N) from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm and immerse yourself and your family in a firefighter experience like you've never had before. Don't miss out on family fun, food, photo opportunities with Sparky, and games. This year's prizes include two bicycles, a scooter, and a bunch of other great stuff.

FALL HYDRANT FLUSHING

Week in October, Weather Permitting

Public Works will be flushing hydrants during a week-long period in October as weather permits. You may notice discoloration and rust particles in your water during this process. If you notice discoloration, letting your faucet run for a short time should clear your water lines. Wait to wash light clothing until you notice the water has cleared.



FALL LEAF PICKUP DATES

**Tuesdays, November 7
and November 14**

The City's licensed refuse haulers are required to annually provide spring and fall curbside leaf pickup dates for their Long Lake residential customers at no cost. Licensed refuse haulers will pick up leaves and yard waste on Tuesday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 14. Please be sure to set out your bagged leaves (no brush) early in the morning on those days. City ordinance prohibits the burning of leaves or grass clippings, and it's a violation of City ordinance to put leaves from your yard into the street.

IMPORTANT! Leaves must be bagged in compostable bags to be accepted, and please remember that leaf pickup dates are for leaves from your own yard ONLY.

Everything You Need to Know About Dogs and Other Animals in Long Lake

The City Council recently adopted an ordinance to substantially update the City's Animals chapter of City Code. Below are a few highlights you'll want to be aware of:

Dog licenses are still required for all dogs over six months of age in Long Lake. If your dog hasn't been licensed or you need to update your dog's license, email the City Clerk at jmoeller@longlakemn.gov to request the dog licensing application form. You do need to have your dog's rabies certificate showing the tag number AND the date the shot was administered.

Kennel permits are still required for any homes with two or more dogs or for dog boarding/daycare businesses on an annual basis, but they can now just be approved by the City Clerk versus having to go to City Council for formal approval at a meeting. It's much easier!

All dogs and cats in Long Lake are required to be current on rabies vaccinations.

Standards for public nuisance animals have been updated. Note that an animal who disturbs neighbors by loud and frequent barking, howling, or other such noises is a public nuisance if the noise occurs for repeated intervals of at least three minutes with less than a minute of silence intervals and is audible off the owner's or caretaker's premises.

When not on your own private property, dogs are still required to be leashed and kept six feet from their owner or the owner's custodian. *In addition to a physical leash, dog owners/custodians can now also use e-collars or clicker training methods to meet the definition of leashing as long as the dog is kept six feet from the owner/custodian.* There's an exception to this – dogs in City parks must be on a physical leash only at all times (no e-collar or clicker training device, leash only), unless they're in the Holbrook Park seasonal designated dog park area.

Dog owners are still required to "doo the right thing" and clean up after their dogs. Many thanks to the dog owners who have been doing so, as you help keep our sidewalks, trails and parks enjoyable for all.

Minnesota Statutes 347.50 through 347.55 addressing the regulation of dangerous dogs have now been incorporated in City Code for consistency of enforcement.

It's now illegal to leave a dog, cat, or other animal unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the animal's health or safety.

It's illegal to keep livestock animals, venomous reptiles, or any other animals of which the keeping in captivity is prohibited by state or federal law (for example: no horses; no tigers or other large cats that would be in violation of the federal Big Cat Public Safety Act enacted in December 2022).

Wondering who to call to report an animal or dog kept in violation of any of the above provisions? Dial 911 – in Hennepin County, it isn't just for emergencies. Hennepin County Dispatch links to our local Police reporting systems for both emergencies and non-emergencies.

And chickens? Well, they're now officially allowed by a required permit (previously, they were not permitted). Single family residential properties only will be able to apply for a Hen Permit to have no more than four chickens – no roosters – subject to criteria including coop and run facility standards. Full information on all Hen Permit requirements will be documented in the permit form, soon to be available on our website or by contacting the City Clerk at jmoeller@longlakemn.gov.

Utility Bills Switching to Monthly in January 2024

With gas, electric, cable/internet, and phone utilities all billing on a monthly basis, Long Lake's non-standard quarterly water billing schedule has often led to confusion over the years. At their October 3 meeting, the City Council approved making a switch from a quarterly City utility billing cycle to a monthly schedule starting in 2024. Public Works will read meters at the end of each month beginning in January, and bills will be mailed shortly after each month-end reading cycle. In addition to monthly bills being easier to remember, the change in schedule will also enable faster leak detection with more regular meter readings, and will help users better track their own property's usage from month to month ... no surprises at the end of a three-month period.

Utility Rate Changes

In addition to changing the billing schedule, the City Council also approved a new rate structure with necessary increases to water, sewer and stormwater utilities, and the addition of a new 'MCES Sewer' fee. Utility services aren't funded by property taxes, so their operational costs must be recovered through billing all residential and commercial users. In particular, the City's sewer fund has been operating at a loss for years. The largest expense for the sewer fund continues to be Metropolitan Council (also referred to as Met Council, or MCES for Metropolitan Council Environmental Services) sewer treatment fees. The new utility rate schedule includes a dedicated \$10 monthly 'MCES Sewer' fee which will significantly help the sewer fund begin to cover the City's annual Metropolitan Council sewer treatment charges. For more detailed information on new utility rates and how they may impact you as a user, please feel free to contact the Finance/Utilities Officer at 952-473-6961 x3. She'll be available any time after October 18. Staff will also be putting together an informational handout on the rate increases for distribution on the City's webpage and Listserv.